



Arizona News



Recent Success

Open Space and Trails in the Heart of Dolan Springs, Arizona

Although it seems like some place in the middle of nowhere, Dolan Springs is bracing itself for rapid land development, lower housing prices, and a reduced commute to the Las Vegas metropolitan area of about 45 minutes once Highway 93 is rerouted away from the Hoover Dam. In preparation, visionary residents are working with County Supervisor Pete Beyer, the Kingman Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Field Office and NPS-RTCA to secure over 480 acres in downtown Dolan Springs for open space under the BLM's Recreation and Public Purposes Act. RTCA staff brought the possibility forward, convened meetings to begin discussions, to link the protected

area with a trail network that connects the Mt. Tipton Elementary School, the Mt. Tipton Wilderness Area, and the Dolan Springs Chamber of Commerce – future site of the proposed natural and cultural history museum.

Arizona Trail: A Highlight in Pinal County, Arizona

A dozen crew members from the Youth Corp of Southern Arizona carved two miles of single track trail through some of the roughest terrain found on the 800 mile Arizona Trail. A unique aspect of the trail work included guidance from Phoenix Botanical Garden staff on the proper techniques for handling and transplanting desert plants dislodged during trail construction. The popular Arizona Trail stretches across the State of Arizona from Mexico to Utah linking deserts, mountains, canyons, communities

RTCA PROGRAM

The Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) Program is the community assistance arm of the National Park Service. RTCA staff provides technical assistance to community groups and local, state, and federal government agencies working to protect natural areas and water resources and enhance close-to-home outdoor recreation opportunities. We help communities plan, organize partnerships, and achieve on-the-ground success on projects they initiate. By investing in the protection of special places, recreation, tourism, and well planned development, local leaders can bring long-lasting economic and quality of life benefits to their communities.

and four national park units. An NPS Challenge Cost Share Grant was secured by RTCA in partnership with the Arizona Trail Association (ATA) to fund this latest segment of trail construction and the native plant transplanting training. Since 1993, RTCA has provided planning support to acquire over a 100 miles of key trail segments, helped secure over a \$100,000 in grants for trail construction, and facilitated trail construction and maintenance training for over 200 volunteers.

"The participation and support of the RTCA has made a significant difference in the progress and quality of the Arizona Trail and its related programs..."
--Steve Anderson, Member, Arizona Trail Association



Mt. Mitten in the Cerbat Mountains - Dolan Springs, AZ.

Current Projects

Chinle Gateway Park

Project Goal: Route 7 is a major gateway into Canyon de Chelly National Monument located on the Navajo Nation tribal lands in northwest Arizona. National Park Service managers want to enhance pedestrian safety and the entrance experience for the Park's 2.5 million annual visitors, develop a 10+ acre community park, and improve recreational access to Chinle Wash. **RTCA Role:** RTCA will facilitate partnership building for this project among Navajo Chinle Chapter tribal officials and members, local business owners, and NPS park staff to begin a visioning process to enhance Route 7 with an emphasis on pedestrian safety and improved picnic and recreational facilities within the monument.

NPS Contact: Joe Winfield

*Partner: Navajo Nation,
Chinle Chapter*



Cochise Trails Association

Project Goal: Cochise Trails Association (CTA) is working to develop a regional trails network in Cochise County. CTA is planning for the unique opportunity to convert nearly 100 miles of abandoned railroad corridor to rail trails in the southeast corner of Arizona, which would create a world class outdoor recreation opportunity.

RTCA Role: Provide CTA with technical support to develop organizational capacity strategies and planning assistance.

NPS Contact: Cate Bradley

Partner: Cochise Trails Association



Carr Peak trail in Huachuca Mountains - Cochise County, Arizona.

Anza Trail Segment Planning

Project Goal: To develop approximately 30 miles of shared-use recreation trail within Pinal County including strategically locating directional and interpretive signs and obtaining official trail certification from the National Park Service. The nationally historic Juan Batista de Anza Trail, identified in Pinal County's Open Space and Trails Plan as one of three major north/south trail corridors, is the most vulnerable to development pressures.

RTCA Role: In cooperation with Pinal County, convene stakeholders and facilitate a trail planning process utilizing a variety of public participation techniques to identify a recreation route for the Anza Trail. In addition, assist County staff to obtain local and county government approvals, and apply for funding to implement the first segments of the trail.

NPS Contact: Joe Winfield

Partner: Pinal County

Casa Grande Mountain Park

Project Goal: The City of Casa Grande is planning to develop a 10 to 20 mile shared use trail system in Casa Grande Mountain Park linking it to regional trails and the City's pathway system. An adjoining 80 acres of Bureau of Land Management property will be acquired through the Recreation and Public Purposes Act. Persistent problems with illegal target shooting and dumping in the mountain park prompted the City to take action and begin this planning.

RTCA Role: Help City staff organize a trails advisory committee comprised of hikers, mountain bikers, and equestrians to develop a master plan for the mountain park. RTCA was instrumental in bringing the International Mountain Biking Association (IMBA) Trail Care Crew to Casa Grande to host a weekend trail advocacy and trail construction workshop.

NPS Contact: Joe Winfield

*Partner: City of Casa Grande,
Community Services Dept.,
Parks and Recreation Office*

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Current Projects

San Pedro and Southwest Rail-to-Trail

Project Goal: Within the San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area (SPRNCA), the Bureau of Land Management is working to convert 33 miles of abandon railroad corridor to a rail-trail that runs along the San Pedro River – named by The Nature Conservancy as “one of the last great places on the planet.”

RTCA Role: RTCA is facilitating the rail-trail planning task force comprised of citizen trail users, economic development advisors, trail and conservation nonprofits, and federal and state recreation specialists.

NPS Contact: Cate Bradley

Partner: Bureau of Land Management



Potential Rail Trail in San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area - Cochise County, Arizona.

Black Canyon Community Park

Project Goal: To develop a 27 acre community park that includes $\frac{1}{2}$ mile of the Agua Fria River. The park will be dedicated to environmental restoration and education, including passive recreation, and four ponds for native fish propagation for re-populating Arizona's rivers and streams. A regional visitor information center, and interpretative displays and programs are also envisioned. The Albin Family, long time residents of Black Canyon City has donated this property to the Black Canyon City Community Association to be managed and used for public enjoyment.

RTCA Role: RTCA will facilitate various groups to develop a park master plan, help produce three community newsletters to inform residents about the project, and assist with grant applications for riparian restoration work to construct the ponds.

NPS Contact: Joe Winfield

Partner: Black Canyon City Community Association



Volunteers groom Black Canyon Trail - Yavapai County, Arizona.

"RTCA has been invaluable to Arizona State Parks and the State Trails Program. It offers new avenues for partnerships in trail promotion and conservation projects as well as greatly leveraging existing resources towards these efforts."

--Annie McVay, Arizona State Parks